(b) an Inter-state thermal power plant of a capacity of 1000 MW or more, located in States other than those specified in clause (a) above; or

(c) an Inter-state hydel power plant of a capacity of 350 MW or more, located in the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura; or

(d) an Inter-state hydel power plant of a capacity of 500 MW or more, located in States other than those specified in clause (c) above.

Improving Government schools

†*258. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that standard of education in Government schools is not at par with that of private schools;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that donation is taken in private schools; and

(c) if so, whether any policy would be formulated for improving Government schools, so that the problem of taking donation by private schools could be checked?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Education being a concurrent subject, school education primarily comes under the purview of the State Governments. So far as the schools under this Ministry are concerned, there is no evidence to suggest that standard of education is not at par with that of private schools. On the countrary, pass percentages of schools under Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, both at class X and Class XII standard, were consistently above the pass percentages of independent private schools affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) during the last five years (2003-07).

(b) Private schools come under the purview of State Government and it is for the respective State Government to regulate the donations charged by private schools. The Affiliation Bye-laws of Central Board of Secondary Edcuation prohibit charging and collecting of capitation fee or voluntary donations for gaining admission in the schools or for any other purpose. In case of such malpractices, CBSE can take action leading to disaffiliation of the schools.

(c) Improvement of quality of education is a continuous process. Central Government has been implementing Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) at the elementary level since 2001-02, *inter-alia*, with the objective to focus on elementary education of satisfactory quality. It has also been decided to implement a Centrally sponsored scheme for universalisation of access to and improvement of quality of education at secondary stage during the Eleventh Five Year Plan. These schemes primarily focus on improving access and quality of Government schools.

Wastage of food items

*259. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a wastage of perishable food items to the tune of Rs. 50,000 crore every year, due to lack of proper food processing facilities in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether steps have been taken to reduce the above wastage;

(c) if so, whether the steps include advising the States to come up with a food processing policy and support the industry to develop;

(d) if so, how many States have taken initiatives in this direction and the outcome thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons why States have not evinced interest in promoting the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (e) The level of wastage of agricultural food items is estimated to be about Rs. 58,000/- crores occurring at various stages of handling after harvesting due to fragmented farming, provisions in Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act, lack of adquate post-harvest infrastructure such as lack of cold chain facilities, transportation, proper storage facilities etc. The loss due to wastages could be reduced by promoting the development of food processing industries, strengthening of post-harvest infrastructure and filling the gaps in the supply chain. However, the substantial rate of growth of the food processing industry from 7% in 2003-04 to 13.14% in 2006-07 and the increase in total investment in food processing sector to Rs. 40,000 crore in 2006-07 has contributed to reduction of wastages and better value addition.

In order to increase level of processing and to promote food processing industries to exploit both the domestic and international market potential for processed food products, Vision 2015 Document has been finalized by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI), which envisages tripling the size of the processed food sector by increasing the level of processing of perishables from 6% to 20%, value addition from 20% to 35% and share in global food trade from 1.5% to 3% by 2015. An integrated strategy for promotion of agribusiness-Vision, Strategy and Action Plan for the Food Processing Sector has also been approved by the Government.

The thrust areas identified for strategic intervention include establishment of Mega Food Parks in identified clusters with appropriate backward and forward linkages, creation of integrated cold chains/value addition and preservation infrastructure, incentivising FDI and private investment in infrastructure, launching a major promotional campaign for the food processing sector and larger public investment for creation of critical rural infrastructure in food processing sector etc. The Ministry has been implementing various Schemes for promotion and development of food processing sector. A Statement indicating financial assistance approved to the Food Processing Units/Other Organizations in the States/UTs for the development of food processing sector during the last 3 years is given in Statement atteched (*see* below).

Ministry of Food Processing Industries with the intention to make concerted efforts for development and growth of food processing sector, is encouraging States to frame Food Processing Industrial Policy for their respective States. This will facilitate the States to create enabling environment for creating rural infrastructure, raise level of processing and generate farm level employment keeping in view their distinct agro climatic scenario and availability of rural infrastructure. As per information available, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have a separate food processing policy for the State. Bihar, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala have taken steps to develop food processing policy for their States. Uttar Pradesh and West bengal have set up separate Development of Food Processing for a sector specific approach. Ministry of Food Processing Industries is

organizing a meeting of the State Ministers of Food Processing shortly for better coordinated efforts for development and growth of the food processing sector.

Statement

(Rs. in crores)

State	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-07
Andhra Pradesh	8.49	13.13	13.80
Andaman Nicobar Islands (UT)	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh	0.49	—	—
Assam	2.37	1.20	13.77
Bihar	0.16	0.25	1.29
Chandigarh (UT)	—	—	0.04
Chhattisgarh	0.33	0.95	2.57
Dadra and Nagar Haveli (UT)	—	—	—
Daman and Diu (UT)	—	—	—
Delhi (UT)	0.64	2.42	5.49
Goa	0.52	0.62	—
Gujarat	4.78	6.22	8.00
Haryana	2.78	0.71	9.01
Himachal Pradesh	1.37	1.85	2.86
Jammu and Kashmir	0.98	0.36	3.23
Jharkhand	2.63	0.77	0.13
Karnataka	4.88	2.99	14.41
Kerala	3.08	13.46	11.42
Lakshadweep (UT)	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	2.30	2.72	3.85
Maharashtra	8.15	19.73	34.95
Manipur	—	—	1.12
Meghalaya	0.04	0.27	0.44
Mizoram	—	—	—
Nagaland	—	0.35	4.70
Orissa	1.11	0.62	2.60
Puducherry (UT)	0.25	0.14	0.33
Punjab	6.27	5.92	6.70
Rajsthan	0.28	1.44	12.82
Sikkim	0.01	—	0.02
Tamil Nadu	7.07	9.96	15.65
Tripura	—	—	0.28
Uttar Pradesh	17.54	7.52	17.03
Uttarakhand	0.44	1.68	10.32
West Bengal	11.17	12.96	15.15
TOTAL:	88.13	108.24	211.98